U.S. Utility Patent Application

of

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relating to a

SCENT DELIVERY SYSTEM USING CONSUMING APPARATUS

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a scent delivery system which, in a preferred embodiment takes the form of eating and/or drinking apparatus.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Prior art discloses numerous innovations in the field of air freshening as well as in the field of items facilitating the consumption of edible items. Even though these prior art innovations may be suitable for the specific, individual purposes which they address, they differ from the present invention.

Scientific research has determined that approximately 80-90% of what humans and animals perceive as "taste" may actually be attributed to the sense of smell. Moreover, recent technological advances in the plastics industry now permit the production of molded and extruded products with a scent or fragrance integrally molded either throughout a coating, or through the plastic of which many eating and drinking utensils are manufactured today. These processes characteristically afford a long-term release of a scent which gets impregnated in a plastic, and, moreover, can be accomplished relatively inexpensively. Heretofore, however, knowledge of scent's influence on taste has not been combined with the knowledge of the existence of the advanced capability of mixing a scent virtually entirely throughout an item either manufactured of plastic or made of another material coated by plastic.

Both at home and in restaurants, millions of people eat with plastic utensils on plastic plates and drink beverages through cups, cup lids and straws made of plastic. Animals, too eat and drink from plastic bowls and dishes. The eating and drinking experience can be dramatically affected by the combination of a utensil or multiple utensils with a scented plastic. The reason for this is that elements considered eating and drinking apparatus are very close to a drinker's nose during conventional use.

Accordingly, impregnating the plastic of a straw, for example, with a pleasant scent will, necessarily, enhance and improve the taste sensation that the drinker experiences, since science has determined the value and power of scent towards influencing the flavors that humans and animals perceive when eating and drinking.

There has never before been any product developed, nor has there been any prior art disclosed to suggest the invention of this disclosure.

SUMMARY AND OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

The present invention discloses a system including eating and drinking apparatus either made of plastic, or coated with a plastic coating in which a scent is mixed.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide an inexpensive means to affect the taste of food and liquid for human consumption, either improving, hurting or neutralizing its flavor via the addition of a scent to the instruments which are traditionally used to deliver food and drink to the mouth.

Another object of this invention is to provide a storage packaging means including a vapor-barrier plastic known to one skilled in the art, in order to better maintain the scent of the consuming utensil within the packaging until use is desired.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 discloses a frontal view a drinking apparatus emitting a scent;
FIG. 2 discloses a frontal view of a drinking apparatus enclosed within vapor barrier film packaging;
FIG. 3 discloses a side view of a cap with a straw therethrough, each of which has scent emanating therefrom;
FIG. 4 discloses a bird's eye view of a cap enclosed within vapor barrier film packaging;
FIG. 5 discloses a side view illustrating how cap, cup, and straw interact;
FIG. 6 discloses a cup which gives-off a scent;
FIG. 7 discloses traditional "Western" eating utensils which give-off a scent;
FIG. 8 discloses a "skewer" which gives-off a scent;
FIG. 9 discloses a plate which gives-off a scent;
FIG. 10. discloses typical chopsticks;
FIG. 11. discloses an object impregnated and/or coated with scent which is added to a consuming utensil such as a straw.

22 Plastic Body
24 Scent
26 First Outlet
28 Second Outlet
30 Vapor Barrier Plastic Packaging
32 Cup Cap
34 Vapor Barrier Plastic Packaging
36 Cup Body
38 Add-On Element

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the preferred embodiment of this disclosed invention, an elongated, circular, tubular body having a First Outlet **26** and a Second Outlet **28** is produced of plastic in a conventional extrusion process. Prior to extrusion using conventional plastic extrusion machinery, conventional pelletized chemical resin containing the essence of at least one essential oil is mixed together with standard plastic pellets. The combination batch is then fed into an extrusion machine at temperatures preferably between 278 degrees Fahrenheit, the flash point for melting conventional plastic, and 300 degrees Fahrenheit. The addition of an essential oil creates Scent **24** which mixes virtually entirely throughout the plastic which will be formed into Plastic Body **22**.

As Plastic Body **22** is used, its proximity to the drinker's nose allows the fragrance of Scent **24** to waft into the user's nostrils, thereby enhancing the drinking experience when a typically pleasant fragrant essential oil is used. In the instance in which a "novelty" or "joke" type Plastic Body **22** may be desired, or in a circumstance during which it may be desirable to create a scenario in which the user experiences an unpleasant consuming event, an essential oil having characteristically unpleasing Scent **24** properties may be introduced, thereby negatively influencing a user's consumption.

In an instance in which it may not be desirable to impregnate Plastic Body **22** itself with a scent, Add-On Element **38** may be added to Plastic Body **22** in order to provide Scent **24** in close proximity to a user's nose. Scent **24** may also be added to a coating for the exterior or even the interior of Cup Body **36**. Cup Cap **32**, which is

typically made of plastic, may also be considered a Plastic Body **22** suitable for impregnation with Scent **24** during its molding fabrication process.

Regarding packaging, Plastic Body **22** is inserted into Vapor Barrier Plastic Packaging **30**, preferably composed of a plastic polymer material such as EVOH^{tm} which is extremely resistant to scent dissipation. The two ends of the bag are then sealed using a conventional heat-sealing machine.

This invention is a novel system. While preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described and illustrated using specific terms, such description is for illustrative purposes only. It may be appreciated and understood that many changes and modification of the invention as described herein may be made by a person skilled in the art to which this subject matter pertains without substantially deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention and of the following claims. As the preferred embodiment is capable of variation, addition, omission and modification without departing from the spirit an scope of the invention, consequently, it is not the intention of the applicant to limit his invention to those modes and embodiments of the invention shown or described above. Protection is desired for all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the invention.